water from water surplus basins to water deficit areas for optimum utilization of water resources. The Government of India established the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) in 1982 as an autonomous society to carryout water balance and other studies and prepare feasibility reports. NWDA has identified 30 links under the National Perspective Plan for preparation of the feasibility reports and has completed feasibility reports of 6 links under Peninsular Component. A Task Force has been set up on 13.12.2002 with a view to bringing about consensus among the States and provide guidance on norms of appraisal of projects and modalities for project funding etc. so as to achieve implementation of interlinking of rivers by 2016.

(c) and (d) As per present tentative estimates, the cost of implementation of identified inter basin water transfer link schemes both under Peninsular and Himalayan Component at 2002 price level is Rs. 5,60,000 crore and as per present indication the proposed diversion will be around 174 billion cubic metre.

Completion of projects on interlinking of rivers

†99. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to complete the construction of all the projects of inter connecting the rivers in the country by 2016; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The Government of India have decided to take up the inter linking of rivers in the country. For this purpose the Central Government has constituted a Task Force on inter-linking of rivers under the Chairmanship of Shri Suresh P. Prabhu, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha on 13.12.2002. This Task Force is working to suggest and guide for achieving the goal of inter-linking of rivers by the end of 2016.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.